

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3762

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ALLON'S REACTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL CONSENSUS STATEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 7674

1. FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH CODEL FLOWERS AT NOON TODAY, ALLON ASKED ME TO REMAIN BEHIND FOR A PRIVATE TALK. THE SUBJECT ON HIS MIND WAS OUR JOINING IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSENSUS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO THE WEST BANK. HE CALLED THIS A "GREAT DIASPPOINTMENT" WHICH HAS REFLECTED "GREAT DAMAGE" ON PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN THAT AREA AND WHICH WILL GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO EXTREMEST ELEMENTS IN THE ARAB WORLD. THE NEGATIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CONSIDERABLY OUTWEIGHED THE POSITIVE ONES, IN HIS VIEW. AS HE HAD HAD EVRON TELL THE DCM YESTERDAY, THE AMERICAN POSITION WAS CONTRARY TO WHAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT DINITZ TALK WITH YOU. IF HE HAD KNOWN OTHERWISE HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE SOME ACTION TO PERSUADE US NOT TO SUPPORT THE CONSENSUS. HE COULD ONLY CALL THIS "AN UNFRIENDLY ACT."

2. I TOOK HIM UP ON THIS POINT ASKING IF HE WAS SURE THAT HE WANTED TO USE THE TERM "UNFRIENDLY," HE REPLIED THAT HE DID, AND SAID THAT OUR ACTION WOULD CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF HARM HE ASKED

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THAT I EXPRESS HIS SORROW TO YOU, HIS "GOOD FRIEND."

3. I PROMISED TO CONVEY HIS MESSAGE BUT SAID THAT I WOULD HAVE TO TAKE EXCEPTION TO HIS USE OF THE WORD UNFRIENDLY. I WAS SURE AND CONFIDENT ALLON KNEW WE WOULD NEVER MAKE A STATEMENT, UNDERTAKE AN ACT OR TAKE A POSITION UNFRIENDLY TO ISRAEL. HE WOULD HAVE TO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. THE TEXT OF THE CONSENSUS REFLECTED IN MOST RESPECTS PREVIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE HAD MADE ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND WE COULD NOT GO BACK ON THESE WITHOUT RENOUNCING OUR POLICY. IT WAS TRUE THAT WE WERE NOT HAPPY WITH MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE CONSENSUS--AND SO STATED--BUT IT DID REFLECT OUR PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED POLICY.

4. ALLON AGREED THAT ISRAEL AND THE U.S. WOULD NOT ALWAYS SEE EYE TO EYE ON EVERY MINOR ISSUE BUT HE CONSIDERED THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT A MAJOR ISSUE. WHY SHOULD AMERICA DANCE TO EGYPT'S TUNE? AFTER ALL, THE ISRAELIS HAD AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT AND YOU TO ASK EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS IF THEY WERE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL BUT THESE COUNTRIES DID NOT EVEN BOTHER TO REPLY. IS THE AMERICAN POSITION ON THE CONSENSUS THE PRIZE FOR ISRAELI READINESS TO NEGOTIATE? HE HAD SEEN MANY AMERICAN COMPLIMENTS ON THE RESULTS OF THE RIYADH AND CAIRO CONFERENCES. EITHER THE WHOLE SITUATION IN LEBANON WAS BEING OVERLOOKED OR THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG. IF ANYONE DESERVED COMPLIMENTS OVER LEBANON IT WAS ISRAEL.

5. I TOLD HIM I AGREED WITH LATTER POINT, AND WE HAD, IN FACT, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PRAISED ISRAELI BEHAVIOR. I WENT ON TO REMIND HIM, HOWEVER, THAT OUR EXPRESSION OF PRAISE WAS RESTRAINED AND LIMITED TO THE FACT THAT THOSE CONFERENCES REDUCED THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON. WE DID NOT DANCE TO ANYBODY'S TUNE, ALLON KNEW THIS, AND I FOUND THE SUGGESTION VERY OFFENSIVE.

6. ALLON REJOINED THAT HE REGRETTED THIS BUT THAT OUR ACTION HAD BEEN VERY DAMAGING AND DISCRIMINATING--HE WOULD WITHDRAW THE WORD "UNFRIENDLY." I TOLD HIM THAT I FOUND "DISCRIMINATING" LESS OFFENSIVE THAN "UNFRIENDLY," BUT JUST AS UNACCEPTABLE.

7. WITH REGARD TO HIS VERSION OF YOUR MEETING WITH DINITZ, I SAID THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT DINITZ HAD ASKED FOR A BLANKET PLEDGE
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THAT THE U.S. WOULD VETO ANY ANTI-RESOLUTION WHATSOEVER ITS NATURE, AND THAT YOU HAD REPLIED THAT WE COULD NOT GIVE SUCH A BLANKET PROMISE. WE HAD TO KNOW THE TEXT OF ANY RESOLUTION BEFORE WE COULD DECIDE HOW TO ACT.

8. ALLON SAID THERE HAD BEEN A PLEDGE THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY ATTACK ON ISRAEL. IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT WE WERE ABOUT TO DO HE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ON THE PHONE AND TRIED TO CHANGE

THE SITUATION. HE REPLIED THAT OUR ACTION WOULD BE TREMENDOUSLY DAMAGING, BOTH IN RESPECT TO THE ARAB WORLD AND DOMESTICALLY IN ISRAEL.

9. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN AN EASY DECISION BY MY GOVERNMENT AND THAT WE HAD BEEN AWARE THAT THE REACTION IN ISRAEL WOULD BE STRONG BUT WE SIMPLY COULD NOT DISAVOW OUR PREVIOUSLY STATED POLICY.

19. ALLON SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THIS OF US SINCE HE HAS TOO MUCH RESPECT FOR THE U.S. BUT WHY DID WE HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH AN EGYPTIAN INITIATIVE - THEIR TEXT, THEIR TIMING. IF THE U.S. HAD DISAGREED WITH ISRAEL WHY WERE THE ISRAELIS NOT TOLD DIRECTLY OR WHY HAD WE NOT ISSUED OUR OWN STATEMENT?

11. IN CONCLUSION HE SAID THAT HE PREFERRED NOT TO PRESENT ME AN OFFICIAL PAPER BUT TO HAVE THIS FREE AND OPEN TALK. "I AM SORRY OUR RELATIONSHIP MUST HAVE SUCH A SOUR NOTE TODAY", HE SAID. IN PARTING, I PROMISED TO CONVEY HIS MESSAGE TO YOU.

12. COMMENT: ALLON'S COMMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AND WE WILL CERTAINLY HEAR MORE OF THE SAME IN THE DAYS TO COME. THE PRESS IS ALREADY HOT AFTER THE STORY AND I HAVE LIMITED OUR COMMENT HERE TO STATING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I HAD HAD A "RIGOROUS EXCHANGE" ON THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I FEAR THAT THE ISRAELI PRESS WILL BE MUCH MORE FULLY BRIEFED.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, WEST BANK, DEMARCHE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AMENDMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV07705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840090-2202
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761152/aaaabsrs.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 TEL AVIV 7674
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLON'S REACTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL CONSENSUS STATEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PREL, IS, US, CSCE, (ALLON, YIGAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006